

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 29-62 as indicated below:

29. (New) An orthopedic attachment member, comprising:
- a. an attachment component which has at least one bore configured to receive a securing member with an enlarged portion, the bore having a first bore passageway portion, and a second bore passageway portion having at least one smaller transverse dimension than transverse dimensions of the first bore passageway portion;
 - b. a stopping surface which reduces a transverse configuration of the first bore passageway portion to retain the enlarged portion of a securing element within the bore of the attachment member between the stopping surface and the second bore passageway portion; and
 - c. a third bore passageway portion between the stopping surface and the second bore passageway portion having a surface configured to conform at least in part to part of the enlarged portion of a securing member received by the bore.
30. (New) The attachment member of claim 29 wherein the stopping surface
has
a first configuration with inner transverse dimensions that are smaller than the
enlarged portion of a securing member received by the bore and

a second configuration with inner transverse dimensions that are at least equal to the enlarged portion of the securing member received by the bore.

31. (New) The attachment member of claim 29 including a securing member having an enlarged head portion disposed within the bore.

32. (New) The attachment member of claim 31 wherein the enlarged head portion of the securing member has at least one transverse dimension greater than the reduced transverse configuration of the first bore passageway portion.

33. (New) The attachment member of claim 32 wherein the enlarged head portion of the securing member has a posterior surface configured to engage the first bore passageway to facilitate the angulation of the securing element within the bore.

34. (New) The attachment member of claim 33 wherein the first bore passageway has a bowl-shaped surface.

35. (New) The attachment member of claim 34 wherein the bowl-shaped surface of the first bore passageway at least in part is a hemispherical zone.

36. (New) The attachment member of claim 29 wherein the stopping surface is part of a biased stopping member.

37. (New) The attachment member of claim 36 wherein the biased stopping member is a collar defining at least in part a passageway enlargeable from an unexpanded first inner diameter to an expanded second inner diameter larger than the first inner diameter, wherein an enlarged head of a securing element has a maximum diameter greater than the unexpanded first inner diameter of the collar and less than the expanded inner diameter of the collar.

38. (New) The attachment member of claim 37 wherein the bore has a groove in the first bore passageway which receives the collar.

39. (New) The attachment member of claim wherein the enlarged portion of the securing element has a curved posterior surface which is configured to contact the collar anterior surface and expand the collar as the head is displaced posteriorly through the collar passageway.

40. (New) The assembly of claim 36 wherein the collar has an anterior surface which tapers inwardly toward the transverse passageway passing therethrough.

41. (New) The attachment member of claim 29 wherein a part of the third bore passageway portion is configured to conform to a posterior surface of an enlarged portion of a securing element received within the bore passageway.

42. (New) The attachment member of claim 31 wherein a portion of the securing element posterior to the enlarged head has smaller transverse dimensions than the second bore passageway in the attachment component so the securing element may be angularly displaced within the bore.

43. (New) The attachment member of claim 29 wherein the attachment component includes at least two bores.

44. (New) The attachment member of claim 29 wherein the attachment component is configured to conform to and extend between at least two bone segments.

45. (New) The attachment member of claim 29 wherein the attachment component has a curved surface.

46. (New) The attachment member of claim 29 wherein the attachment component is selected from the group consisting of rods and plates.

47. (New) The attachment member of claim 31 wherein the securing element disposed within the bore is selected from the group consisting of screws and nails.

48. (New) The attachment member of claim 37 wherein the collar is formed of an elastically deformable material.

49. (New) The attachment member of claim 37 wherein the collar is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of titanium and superelastic material.

50. (New) The attachment member of claim 37 wherein the collar has a posterior surface perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bore extending through the attachment component.

51. (New) The attachment member of claim 4 wherein the collar has a height less than the height of the groove.

52. (New) A method of attaching an orthopedic implant assembly to a bone of a patient, comprising

- a) providing an attachment member comprising
 - an attachment component which has at least one bore configured to
 - receive a securing member with an enlarged portion, the bore
 - having a first bore passageway portion, and a second bore
 - passageway portion having at least one smaller transverse
 - dimension than transverse dimensions of the first bore passageway
 - portion,

a stopping surface which reduces a transverse configuration of the first bore passageway to retain the enlarged portion of a securing element within the bore of the attachment member between the stopping surface and the second bore passageway;

- b) positioning the attachment member against a surface of the patient's bone;
- c) providing a securing element having an elongated body, and an enlarged portion at or near one end of the body having a maximum diameter greater than the smaller diameter configuration of the passageway defined by the stopping member and greater than the second bore passageway portion in the attachment component to retain the enlarged portion of the securing element within the third bore passageway portion between the stopping surface and the second bore passageway portion in the attachment component;
- d) attaching the securing element to the patient's bone by advancing the securing element within the bore of the attachment component until the enlarged portion of the securing element is in the third bore passageway portion.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein after the enlarged portion of the securing element is positioned in the third bore passageway portion between the stopping surface and the second bore passageway portion and the securing element is angularly displaceable within the bore so that the securing element may be secured within the patient's bone at an angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the bore.

54. (New) An orthopedic implant assembly, comprising
- a) an attachment member comprising
an attachment component which has at least one bore configured
to receive a securing member with an enlarged portion, the
bore having a first bore passageway portion, and a second
bore passageway portion having at least one smaller
transverse dimension than transverse dimensions of the first
bore passageway portion;
a stopping surface which reduces a transverse configuration of the
first bore passageway portion to retain the enlarged portion
of a securing element within the bore of the attachment
member between the stopping surface and the second bore
passageway portion, and
a third bore portion between the stopping surface and the second
bore passageway portion having a surface configured to
conform at least in part to part of the enlarged portion of a
securing member received by the bore
- b) a securing element having an elongated body and an enlarged
head at one end of the elongated body which has a reversibly
compressed configuration with transverse dimensions less than the
reduced transverse configuration of the first bore passageway
portion formed by the stopping surface and which has an
uncompressed configuration with a diameter greater than the

reduced transverse configuration of the first bore passageway portion and the second opening, so that the head of the securing element is retained within the bore between the stopping member and the second bore passageway portion in the attachment component.

55. (New) The implant assembly of claim 54 wherein the head of the securing element is configured to be displaceable posteriorly through the stopping surface from an anterior to a posterior portion thereof.

56. (New) The implant assembly of claim 54 wherein the head of the securing element has a plurality of slots and circumferentially disposed members having posterior ends secured to the body of the securing element, and anterior ends radially moveable toward a longitudinal axis of the head of the securing element to form the compressed configuration and away from the longitudinal axis to form the uncompressed configuration.

57. (New) The implant assembly of claim 54 wherein the stopping surface is at the anterior end of the bore and defines a first opening in the attachment component.

58. (New) The implant assembly of claim 54 wherein the stopping surface is perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bore.

59. (New) A method of attaching an orthopedic implant assembly to a bone of a patient, comprising

- a) providing an attachment member comprising
an attachment component which has at least one bore configured to
receive a securing member with an enlarged portion, the bore

having a first bore passageway portion, and a second bore passageway portion having at least one smaller transverse dimension than transverse dimensions of the first bore passageway portion,

a stopping surface which reduces a transverse configuration of the first bore passageway to retain the enlarged portion of a securing element within the bore of the attachment member between the stopping surface and the second bore passageway;

- b) positioning the attachment member against a surface of the patient's bone;
- c) providing a securing element having an elongated body and an enlarged head secured to one end of the body which has a reversibly compressed configuration with transverse dimensions less than the reduced transverse configuration of the first bore passageway portion formed by the stopping surface and which has an uncompressed configuration with a diameter greater than the reduced transverse configuration of the first bore passageway portion and the second opening, so that the head of the securing element is retained within the bore between the stopping member and the second bore passageway portion in the attachment component; and
- d) attaching the securing element to the patient's bone by advancing the securing element within the bore of the attachment component until the

enlarged portion of the securing element is in the passageway defined by the stopping surface.

60. (New) An intracorporeal attachment member, comprising:

- a. an attachment component which has at least one bore configured to receive a securing member with an enlarged portion, the bore having a first bore passageway portion, and a second bore passageway portion with smaller transverse dimensions than transverse dimensions of the first bore passageway portion;
- b. a stopping surface which reduces a transverse configuration of the first bore passageway portion to retain the enlarged portion of a securing element within the bore of the attachment member between the stopping surface and the second bore passageway portion; and
- c. a third bore passageway portion between the stopping surface and the second bore passageway portion having a surface configured to conform at least in part to part of an enlarged portion of a securing member received by the bore.

61. (New) The intracorporeal attachment member of claim 60 including a securing member having an enlarged head portion disposed within the bore.

62. (New) The attachment member of claim 61 wherein the enlarged head portion of the securing member has at least one transverse dimension greater than the reduced transverse configuration.